

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

**Claims 1-8.** (cancelled)

9. (new) A tire vulcanizing mold comprising an inner peripheral shape corresponding to the surface of a tire tread portion, and configured by assembling a plurality of circumferentially segmented pieces, wherein at least one of said plurality of segmented pieces has generally round-bar-shaped pin protectors on an assembling face between an adjoining segmented piece in a projecting manner therefrom, and said adjoining segmented piece has first radial depressed grooves of generally arcuate in cross section to be fitted with said pin protectors on an assembling face between said segmented pieces to be assembled, and said at least one of the segmented pieces has second radial depressed grooves, which are generally arcuate in cross section and provided plurally and axially spaced in a radial direction for fixing the pin protectors.

10. (new): The tire vulcanizing mold according to claim 9, wherein said second depressed grooves provided in said at least one segmented piece and said first depressed grooves provided in said adjoining segmented piece have generally the same diameter.

11. (new): The tire vulcanizing mold according to claim 9, wherein said at least one segmented piece is detachably fitted with said pin protector on said assembling face.

12. (new): The tire vulcanizing mold according to claim 10, wherein said at least one segmented piece is detachably fitted with said pin protector on said assembling face.